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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,040	10/31/2003	Nobuo Yaegashi	SHO-0035	8364

23353 7590 10/27/2006

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EXAMINER

KARKHANIS, AASHISH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

DATE MAILED: 10/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/697,040	Applicant(s) YATEGASHI, NOBUO	
	Examiner Aashish Karkhanis	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/16/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 – 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugimoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,287,195 B1).

Regarding Claims 1 – 2, Sugimoto discloses a gaming machine comprising a medal insertion slot having an opening for a player to insert a medal for playing a game (fig. 1, elem. 10) including a medal guide projection projecting in a forward direction of the gaming machine and configured to guide the medal to the opening, wherein the medal guide projection comprises: an inner peripheral part configured to be in contact with outer peripheral surface of the medal (fig. 1, elem. 10; where a three dimensional view shows a medal coin insertion device with a forward projecting portion and a slot for inserting a coin disposed at the rear of the inner peripheral surface), and a pair of projection parts disposed away from each other and projecting on top of both ends of the inner peripheral part, and wherein an angle between a ridgeline of one of the projection parts and a horizontal line is configured to be different from an angle between a ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line, where one angle must be larger than the other (fig. 1, elem. 10; where two projection parts on either side of a medal insertion slot are side walls that guide the coin to a slot, and each projection part

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side wall may be at a different height to help a player insert a coin naturally, causing two separate horizontal angles to be formed by a single horizontal reference line).

Regarding Claims 3 – 4, Sugimoto discloses a gaming machine wherein a height of a start point of the ridgeline of one of the projection parts on a side of the opening is configured to be the same as a height of a start point of the ridgeline of the other projection part on the other projection part on a side of the opening, wherein an angle between an upper face of the frontward projection portion and the horizontal line is configured to be substantially equal to the angle between the ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line (fig. 1, elem. 10; where the height of an inner peripheral surface is measured from the rear of a medal insertion slot device to the front, where the device extends forward equally from either side wall projection, creating an equal angle between the forward end of an inner projection and either side wall projection).

Regarding Claim 5, Sugimoto discloses a gaming machine wherein an angle between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of one of the projection parts and a bottom of the one of the projection parts is configured to be smaller than an angle between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of the other projection part and a bottom of the other projection part (fig. 1, elem. 10; where one projection part may be at a lower height than another, which would form two separate angles from a horizontal reference line).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 4,669,731: Coin insertion slot.

U.S. Patent 5,611,535: Coin insertion slot.

U.S. Patent 6, 186,894 B1: Coin insertion slot.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aashish Karkhanis whose telephone number is (571) 272-2774. The examiner can normally be reached on 0800-1630 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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SCOTT JONES
PRIMARY EXAMINER